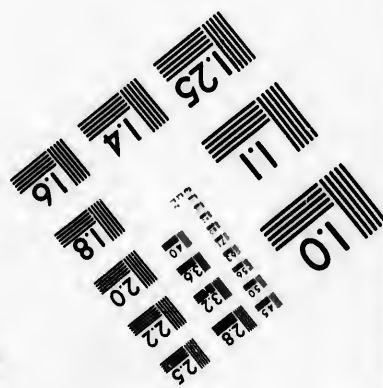
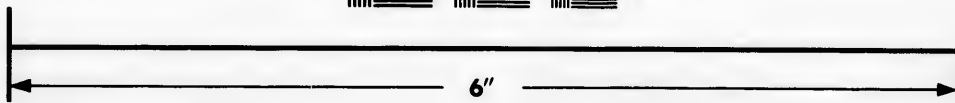
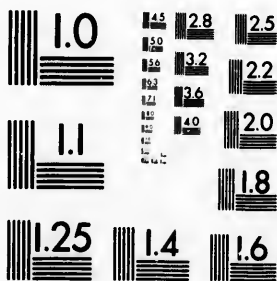


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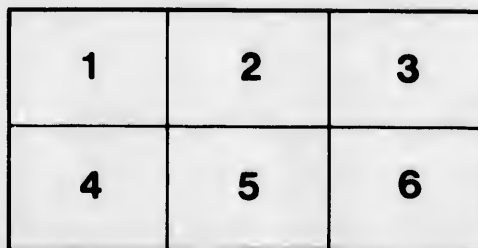
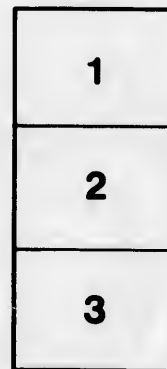
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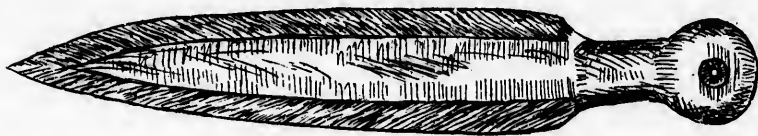
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NOTES OF THE PREHISTORIC RACES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THEIR MONUMENTS.

By CHARLES HILL-TOU, F.A.G.S.; etc., etc., Western Member of the Ethnological Committee appointed by the British Association for the Survey of Canada.



THE past has a great fascination for some minds—I mean the past of mankind; and, by-the-way, how immeasurably remote has that past become in these latter days of the 19th century. It seems but yesterday that one was taught that this past went back only a few, a very few, thousand years; that the very first of our kind came into being with all the rest of created things, and the old globe itself, less than 6,000 years ago. Men of the highest intellectual attainments taught and believed this no longer than twenty-five years ago. It seems incredible now with our later and wider knowledge that men could so long have closed their eyes, as well as their minds, to the evidences of antiquity about them; yet such we know to be the case. To-day, the dullest school-boy can tell you that the globe is demonstrably millions of years old, and that man's history stretches back into the far, dim days of tens of thousands, and perhaps hundreds of thousands, of years ago. For we know to-day, as certainly as we know that the sun rose yesterday, that man was not only in existence thousands of years before the date we used to believe the world and all upon it first came into being, but actually inhabited, populous and wealthy cities, and possessed a civilization and culture, in some points superior even to our own, at least, two or three millenniums before that time. And of the younger sciences of this wonderful century of discoveries,

to which we are indebted for this wider knowledge, there is none that has a greater claim upon our gratitude than archaeology, or the science of ancient things. Archaeology associates itself in many minds exclusively with Egypt and Assyria. The interesting discoveries that have been made there of late years have brought these Old World centres before the public eye to the partial exclusion of other places scarcely less interesting or important; and it may be a surprise to some to know that some of the most interesting, as well as the most perplexing of ancient human remains, are found, not in the Old World at all, but in the New—on this very continent of ours. In Central America, in the midst of the dense, tropical vegetation, far in the trackless forests, covered with climbing plants and half-buried beneath the accumulated mould of unnumbered centuries' formation, there lie the remains of wonderful cities, spacious ornate temples and stupendous pyramids, that vie in their solemn, silent grandeur and mystery with the ancient ruins of the Nile or the Euphrates. Who built or who inhabited them is one of the unsolved mysteries of the past. But it is not only in Central America that interesting evidences of man's past are to be found. They lie scattered up and down the whole continent, though perhaps they are not all so imposing or mysterious as those of Central America. Mexico, Peru, all the great river valleys, and even this far northwestern Province of

ours, all possess highly interesting monuments of man's forgotten past. And, confining our attention more particularly to this section of the continent, it may interest the readers of the MINING RECORD if we consider briefly some of the salient features of the archaeology of this Province, which is not without a special interest of its own.

It is barely a century ago that the first white men set foot in this Province. Our occupation of it dates back, as it were, from yesterday; yet human possession of it goes back we know for at least two millenniums before our advent here, and how far beyond it is impossible at this point to say. Who and what the earliest inhabitants were; what kind of monuments of the past they have left behind them; to what other peoples they were related, whether to the present tribes or to others who have long since passed away, are questions, it is thought, would interest the readers of this special edition of the MINING RECORD. Such questions can necessarily be but briefly treated in an article of this kind. To write all that could be written upon them would fill volumes; for the learned societies of Europe and America have of late years spent much money and time in carrying on explorations and investigations in this region, and their agents have now brought together a large body of interesting facts, some of which are here for the first time brought before the general reader's notice.

The study of man's past has revealed nothing more clearly to us than the fact of his world-wide dispersion. From every part of the globe, no matter where one goes, comes evidence of man's presence, either now, or in the past. Had we no other proof of this great antiquity we should be warranted in assuming it from this fact alone. When this continent was first discovered populous tribes occupied the whole of its broad surface from end to end, from bleak and desolate Patagonia to the frozen shores of the Arctic Ocean, and from its eastern confines to its farthest western limits. Some of them, such as the peoples of ancient Mexico and Peru were living in a comparatively high state of civilization and culture, far higher in-

deed than that which has up to the present succeeded it under Spanish influence. Others maintained a miserable existence in the face of adverse natural surroundings, as among the degraded Patagonians in the far south; or the presence of human foes, more hostile than nature at her cruellest, as among those wretched, solitary individuals whom the early pioneers met in their journeys across the Rockies, and who looked upon the possession of the putrifying entrails of game and other camp refuse as the highest joy of their miserable existence; while between these two extremes every degree of savagery and barbarism might be found. Indeed, one of the most interesting features of the New World is the presence within it of conditions of life which have long since passed away and been forgotten in the Old. While archaeological investigations reveal to us broken, fragmentary histories of dead and by-gone races in Europe, and our historic imaginations endeavour to recall their lives and conditions and circumstances, by a study of their relics, here in America we see before our very eyes human beings living in the simplicity, the squalor and the savagery of primitive man; or attaining to that degree of pastoral culture we believe the primitive Aryan tribes had risen to before their final separation into their present great historical divisions. We can study the conditions through which early man and our own ancestors passed in the forgotten days of long ago; and, observing them as they actually exist under primitive conditions, correct the misconception and errors that our imaginations are prone to lead us into. We read in our national histories of the ancient Britons and others living in mud and wicker huts, clothing themselves in the untanned skins of wild beasts, or staining their naked bodies with the juices of plants and herbs; living upon fish or venison and such roots and wild fruits as nature deigned to bestow upon them in her bounty; but how few of us realize what life under these conditions means.

To rightly understand the condition of most of the peoples of Europe when the Roman Legions were over-running

and subduing it we should study the conditions of the native races of this continent, as they are and as they were when we first came into contact with them. But enough of general observation, we will now deal more particularly with what we may gather of primitive man from his records and monuments as we find them in this Province. These, generally speaking, are of two kinds, tumuli and *kjoekken-moeddingen*, or kitchen-middens, as they are more fam-

cal world a few years ago until the publication by the Royal Society of a monograph of the writer's upon them; yet our tumuli have many interesting and distinctive features of their own, and the midden, from which the relics figured in the accompanying illustrations were taken, exceeds in mass and area the largest middens of classic Denmark, and abounds in interesting ethnological data. This particular midden, now known as the "Great Fraser Midden," is

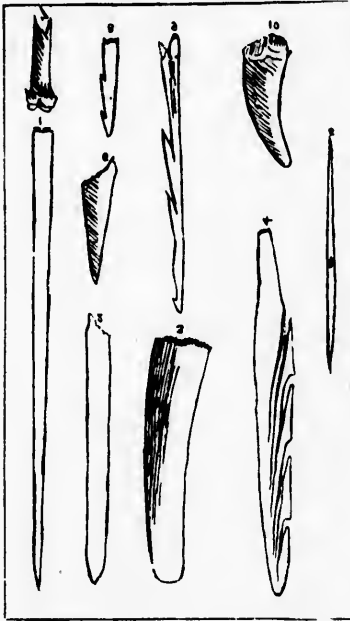


Plate I.—Bone Implements from Midden.

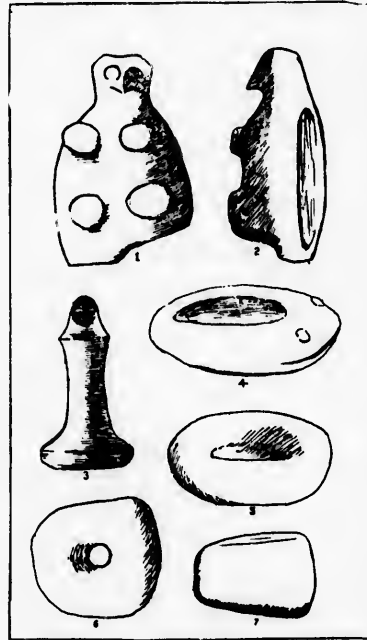


Plate II.—Stone Implements from Midden.

iliarly called. Both are found scattered up and down the whole Province, generally along the shores of gulfs and bays, or on the banks of streams and rivers. Archaeologically speaking the tumuli are intrinsically the more interesting of the two, though as a rule they are singularly poor in relics of their builders. The middens of Europe and of the Atlantic seaboard and the mounds of the great central and eastern valleys have long since become classic, but the middens and tumuli of British Columbia were practically unknown to the archaeologi-

upwards of 1,400 feet in length and 300 feet in breadth, and covers to an average depth of about 5 feet, and to a maximum depth of over 15 feet, an area of over $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent. It is composed of the remains of marine shells, mostly of the clam and mussel kind, intermingled with ashes and other earthy matter. It is situated on the right bank of the north arm of the Fraser, a few miles up from its present mouth, and opposite the alluvial islands called Sea and Lulu Island. The existence of so extensive a midden, composed so largely of the

remains of shell fish that belong to salt water, at such an unusual distance from the nearest clam and mussel-bearing beds of to-day, was for a time a puzzle to me, when my attention was first drawn to it. I could perceive no satisfactory reason why these midden-makers should have chosen this particular site for their camping ground instead of one five or six miles farther down the bank, and nearer to the present source of supply of this staple of their larders. And upon discovery a little later of other middens still higher up the river by fifteen or sixteen miles the puzzle became proportionately greater. I found it difficult to believe that the enormous mass of shell-fish, whose remains enter so largely into the composition of these great piles, had been laboriously brought up against the stream in canoes or "packed" on the backs of the patient "klootchmans." It was too contrary to the genius of the people to suppose this. Making a brief survey of the district, a little later, the fact was disclosed that the mouth of the river was formerly some twenty miles higher up than it is at present, and, that the salt waters of the Gulf of Georgia had in by-gone days laved the base of the declivity on which the City of New Westminster now stands; and had passed on from thence and met the fresh waters of the Fraser in the neighbourhood of the little bayside village of Port Hammond. And, further, that the large islands now inhabited by ranchers, which bar in mid-stream the onrush of the annual freshets, must once have had no existence at all; and even after their formation had begun must have existed for a very considerable period as tidal flats such as may be seen to-day stretching beyond the whole delta for a distance of five or six miles. That these islands were once tidal-flats is certain, from the fact that the water from the wells dug on them by the ranchers, is so brackish that the water of the muddy Fraser is preferred to it. And, further, that when in this condition they afforded shelter to shell-fish similar to those whose remains are found in the middens near by, is clearly evidenced by the fact that beds of similar shells are frequently met with, *in situ*, as I have

been credibly informed, when digging for water in the interior parts of the islands. But as this discovery seemed to point to a rather remote past for the formation of these middens, I was reluctant to admit this obvious inference, until I had ascertained that the enormous stumps of cedar and fir which I found projecting from the midden—several of which have diameters of from 6 to 8 feet, and indicate by their annular rings from five to seven centuries' growth—had their roots actually in the midden mass itself; and had obviously grown there since the midden had been formed. Ascertaining this by personal excavation and realizing that three-quarters of a millennium had passed away since the middens had been abandoned, I could no longer resist the inference that they had been formed when the islands opposite and below them were tidal, shell-bearing flats.

The question now naturally arises, when and for what reasons was this ancient camping ground abandoned? Was it at a period shortly before the appearance upon them of those forest giants, whose size and approximate age I have just mentioned, or was it at a much earlier date; and was it abandoned because the particular community dwelling there had been exterminated by their enemies, or was it because the clams and mussels gave out in consequence of a sudden or a gradual rise in the level of the neighbouring flats? In seeking an answer to these queries the cause of the abandonment of so ancient a camping ground may possibly be found in this last reason. The explanation seems plausible, but the former cause suggested is more likely the truer one. The abandonment many centuries ago of so many other middens, elsewhere along our bays and inlets, where no such cause as this can be assigned—where clams and mussels still exist in great quantities, and have so existed from time immemorial, as the extensive, tree-covered midden-piles now testify—seems to call for a more comprehensive and less local explanation. This view is further supported by the anatomical evidence which these middens supply. In their lower horizons skulls have been found of a type wholly unlike the crania to be found

among the Cowichan tribes to-day. They are too decidedly dolichocephalic, or "long-headed," to be classified among any of the typical crania of this district, and suggest affinity rather with the Eskimo or Eastern tribes, than with any in this region north of California. Other striking features of these midden crania, which differentiate them further from the Lower Fraser type, are the extreme narrowness of the forehead and the lofty sweep of the cranial vault. These crania undoubtedly lend support to the hypothesis that the middens of this region, at any rate, were formed by a pre-Salishian people and not by the present Salish tribes of this region. In considering the time when the abandonment

pendent, extraneous evidence of the enormous tree-stumps now found in the midden, whose size, condition and other characteristics all warrant one in saying that many of them are from 500 to 700 years old. The age of the islands, then, cannot be less than the age of the midden trees, though it may not be very considerably greater. Exactly how much older they are it seems impossible from the evidence at hand at present to say with any degree of certainty. There is nothing in their formation, as far as I have been able to ascertain, for which it is necessary to assign a greater length of time than a thousand years. They are wholly alluvial and only just above the level of the freshets and high tides and

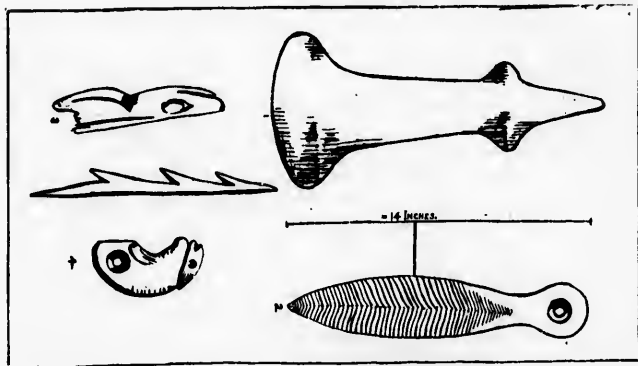


Plate III.—Bone and Stone Implements.

took place, the physical changes which have clearly taken place in the estuary since the shells which enter so largely into the composition of the middens, were gathered from the tidal flats that have since become tree-clad and cultivable islands, afford us some clue to work upon in the case of the midden under consideration. If we can arrive at an estimate of the age of the islands we shall get some idea of the period of abandonment; for there is little doubt, I think, that these Fraser middens were wholly formed before those physical changes which transformed the shell-bearing flat into an island took place. In seeking to form this estimate we are assisted in some measure by the inde-

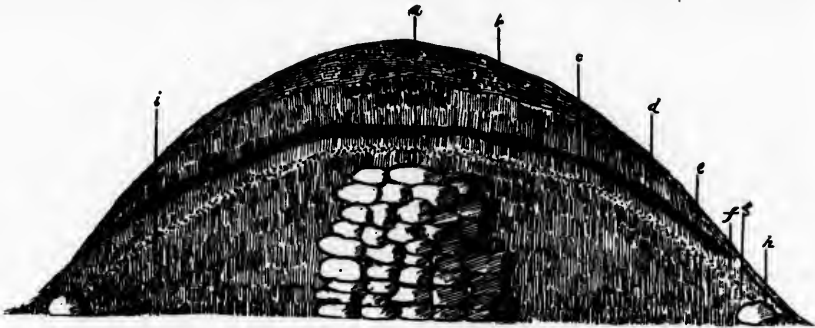
were often, before they were dyked during the annual floods, extensively inundated. And although they are in their higher parts now thickly covered with timber I have not been able to find or hear of a tree more than a few feet in diameter or of more than three or four centuries' growth at most. If, then, I am correct in estimating the period which has elapsed since the flats ceased to support shell-fish and took on the form of islands at a thousand years, something like this period has in all probability elapsed since this camping ground was abandoned by its owners on account of the extinction of their chief food supply at this point, and possibly a very much longer period if from

the more likely cause suggested. But placing the abandonment at the latest possible date consistent with the presence and condition of the tree stumps, when to this period has been added the time taken to form the midden itself we find ourselves in the possession, in this extensive pile of refuse, of a monument of the past second to none in the country in antiquity. That the accumulation of such a heap of human refuse as this midden presents, to make no mention of others almost as large, occupied a very considerable period of time there can be no doubt. It possesses many features in common with the Danish *kejoekken-moeddingen*, now so famous, which led such eminent investigators as Worsaae, Steenstrup, Lubbock and others to regard the period of formation of those well-known piles as extending, in the words of the learned author of the "Origin of the Aryans," over "many centuries at least, more probably several millenniums." We are not unjustified, therefore, in claiming a very considerable period of time for the accumulation of these similar and much larger heaps of B.C. Viewing it, therefore, from the most conservative standpoint, it may be reasonably conceded that the lower parts of this midden could hardly have been laid down later than the beginning of our own era. That particular midden-pile was slowly formed through the centuries, and was not the rapid accumulations of a large body of people, is more than probable from the fact that there are on its surface, at some distance from each other, four or five crowns or eminences—due as I have personally ascertained, not to any local elevation of the sub-soil, but wholly to an increase in the midden mass itself—which, from what we know of the mode of formation of more recent accumulations of the kind, we may reasonably infer were old family centres. From these features, as well as from many other minor ones, such as the paucity of relics, in comparison with other camping grounds where large communities are known to have once dwelt, such as at Hammond, it may be fairly concluded that this midden was the camp-site of a few families only; and when it is remembered what an enor-

mous mass of stuff there is in it, we are bound on any reasonable hypothesis to allow a very considerable time for its accumulation. And from the fact that the midden is found to overlie the clean, coarse gravel of the drift—which shows no trace of vegetable matter; while all around the midden, outside of its own material, and all along the bank, rich, loamy, vegetable mould is found overlying the drift-gravel to a depth of nearly a foot—it is certain to my mind that there was an aboriginal settlement on this bank before the appearance of post-glacial vegetation in this district. The glacial period of this part of North America was much later than elsewhere, though exactly how long ago it was since the glaciers retreated from our glens and valleys is yet a matter of dispute among geologists. That it was comparatively recent, is pretty certain, from the fact that accurate observation by a well-known scientist disclosed the fact only recently that one of our largest glaciers up the Coast has retreated over thirty miles during the last hundred years. That the valleys of the Coast Range were under ice-caps long after the ice had retreated from the northern half of Vancouver Island is certain from the presence of later forms of vegetation there, as for example, the oak. It is well known that the oak succeeds the fir only after a long interval of time, when the soil has become fit by the decay of vegetable matter for its growth. The oak, so characteristic of the scenery around Victoria, for instance, is wholly unknown on the Mainland, and even on the Island only reaches as far north as Comox, or thereabouts. This is not strange. The southern end of the Island was under the immediate influence of the warm breezes of the Japan current, which made its presence felt there before it did on the Mainland, and long after the Island had become habitable our Mainland valleys were still wrapped in their ice-shrouds. Many of the higher ones are still sleeping under the ice, while others have not long emerged. The townsite of Vancouver and its neighbourhood was wholly covered by a huge ice-sheet in former days as those who have had to excavate, or make gardens know to their cost. In the higher

parts, the glacial clays and gravels still remain as they were laid down by the melting of the great Capilano glacier, which has left its trail behind it in the numerous and troublesome boulders that everywhere, but especially in the west end, in the line of the moraines, encumber the ground. Vegetation has been too recent in this locality for nature to have made sufficient mould to cover them up, and the forest which now covers to some extent the glacial gravels of South Vancouver had not, I believe, made its appearance when the old midden-makers on the old bank of the Fraser first made their camp there. Every feature of the midden bears unmistak-

five centuries old, from the position in which they were found, but yet it would puzzle anybody to pick them out from others of the same kind from which the fish were taken only a few years ago. There are numerous other signs besides this that speak of extreme age. It rarely happens that a skull is taken out whole; it generally falls to pieces in handling, and but from the fact that certain parts of the midden have been transformed into a kind of dry concrete we should not have succeeded in taking any out whole. Then again, not a particle of wood has been found in the midden so far, unless it be the rotting rootlets of the trees that penetrate the mass to a



Explanation of lettering in Plate IV. :

a—Central pile over body.
 b—Clay.
 c—Quicksand.
 d—Charcoal.
 e—Coarse brown sand.

f—Quicksand.
 g—Dark gritty sand.
 h—Outer square of boulders.
 i—Quicksand.

able testimony of extreme age, everything taken from it, except, of course, the stones, being found in the last stage of decay; an instance of which is the condition of the shell remains. Generally speaking, the shells when taken out whole, which happens rarely, all crumble to pieces at the touch, even when they bear no marks of fire on them; and that the clam shell, at any rate, is exceedingly durable is clear from the fact that trees of many centuries' growth are found along Burrard Inlet and elsewhere growing over shell-heaps and gripping with their roots whole clamshells, as perfect and firm as the day they were thrown out. I have shells in my possession that cannot be less than

depth of several feet. Axe and tomahawk-heads, which were undoubtedly once fastened into wooden hafts or handles, are quite common; but where they are found there is never any trace of their wooden hafts to be seen. These and sundry other unmistakable evidences all speak clearly of the great antiquity of the accumulation. I do not wish to exaggerate this; I desire only to discuss the plain facts of the case for the readers of the MINING RECORD as they appear to me; and it is not unlikely that more extensive investigations will make it necessary to extend rather than curtail the age here claimed.

In the accompanying illustrations are figured a few samples of the relics thus

far taken from this midden. They are as will be seen, simple in make and design, and such as are found among primitive people elsewhere. No pottery of any kind has been found in these middens; indeed, the ceramic art appears to have been wholly unknown to the aborigines of B.C. The mortars or bowls and pestles seen in the illustrations were not as is often supposed for corn-grinding purposes. They do not appear to have possessed such; no grain of any kind being known, as far as the writer has been able to discover, among the West Coast Indians north of the Columbia. Some of their tools and utensils, such as the pestle, or more properly, stone-hammer, and the sword-like in-

strument in the illustrations, are beautifully made and polished. It appears to have been customary to fashion their bowls after the likeness of some animal. The fish-head pattern is one of the commonest. The bear pattern was also a favourite style. Occasionally they were made to represent a human head. There was one taken from the old camping grounds at Port Hammond which had a human face carved on one of its sides, the top of the head rising several inches above the rim of the receptacle. Large numbers of barbed bone spear-points are found. The stone edges, axes, knives and chisels are generally of jade, of which material I shall have something to say later, and some have been

found with edges as sharp and keen as those of a steel axe. Bone needles, with the eye sometimes in the centre, at other times in the end, are quite common. A favourite weapon among these midden people seems to have been one formed from the young horn of the elk. These horns in their first growth are round and pointed, and at this stage were selected by the warriors for their "skull-crackers." The horn was apparently inserted in the end of a rod or otherwise secured to a haft. They are aptly termed skull-crackers, for three adult skulls have already been taken from this midden with circular perfora-

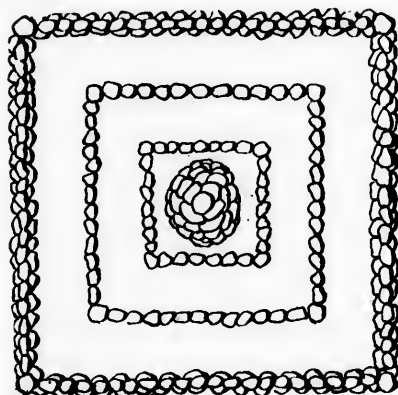


Plate V.—Plan of Mounds of Fifth Series. 36x36 feet.

strument in the illustrations, are beautifully made and polished. It appears to have been customary to fashion their bowls after the likeness of some animal. The fish-head pattern is one of the commonest. The bear pattern was also a favourite style. Occasionally they were made to represent a human head. There was one taken from the old camping grounds at Port Hammond which had a human face carved on one of its sides, the top of the head rising several inches above the rim of the receptacle. Large numbers of barbed bone spear-points are found. The stone edges, axes, knives and chisels are generally of jade, of which material I shall have something to say later, and some have been

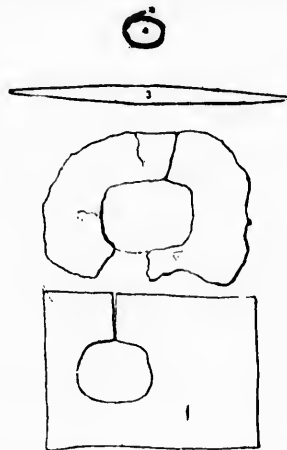


Plate VI.—Copper Instruments from Mounds.

tions in their crowns, clearly made by these instruments, and as clean cut as if the piece had been taken out with a mechanic's punch.

It may now be interesting to pass from the middens and consider for a little while the tumuli, or burying grounds of this region. We cannot consider them all; we will, therefore, select a group of some of the more interesting ones. A typical cluster of these was found on the right bank of the Fraser at Hatzic and examined by the writer a few years ago. These sepulchres with their ancient mode of burial belong, like the middens, to a comparatively distant past. The Indians now dwelling in the neighbourhood know nothing of them and dis-

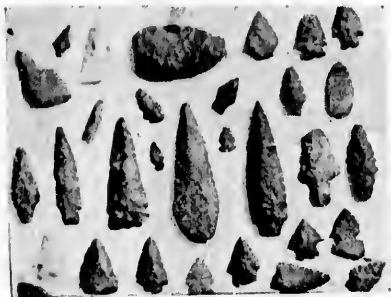
claim all knowledge of the people who built them; and what is more, are quite unconcerned at their being opened or disturbed. This indifference, in the face of the zealous vigilance they exercise over their own old burial ground or depositories of the dead, is the more striking. The difficulty of procuring anatomical material from any of the burial grounds of the modern tribes is a well-known fact; and this unusual indifference displayed towards these mounds by the Indians of the district is strong evidence of itself that they belong to some antecedent and forgotten people. Indeed, an aged Indian of the place informed the writer that the traditions of his people tell of their being there from the earliest times, that no one knew who made them, and that no Indian would approach them on any account. Indian traditions, one knows, are not very reliable data, but in this instance they support the evidence of the mounds themselves and may rest upon a basis of truth. Whether they are pre-Salishian or not, they were undoubtedly constructed many centuries ago, as we shall presently show.

These tumuli are interesting apart from the question of their antiquity, from the fact that they present to us, either a development from simple conceptions and ideas concerning the dead to more advanced and complex ones; or else they mark in a most interesting manner the different degrees of honour their builders were wont to pay to their dead; for they show a markedly graduated transition from interment of a body beneath a simple pile of clay, to the construction of comparatively elaborate tombs, composed of a great number of boulders arranged in precise and geometrical order, and covered with alternate layers of sand and clay of different kinds. The simplest and first of this cluster or series, and, as I am led to believe the oldest, was formed by placing the dead body on the ground somewhat below the level of its surface and then heaping over it the soil of the immediate neighbourhood, for there are shallow ditches around the base of these mounds which show that the soil of which they are formed was taken from the spot. In all these mounds throughout the whole

series, whether simple or otherwise, it should be stated, one corpse only was ever interred. About this there is no doubt; and this fact of separate, individual interment is the more striking in the more elaborate tombs which must have occupied the relatives of the dead many weeks in their construction. Many of these simpler and less conspicuous mounds have doubtless been levelled by the ranchers of that neighbourhood without attracting attention; as the bones of the body in these are always found wholly decomposed, with the single exception, at times, of a bit of the lower jaw, and their matter has been so closely integrated with the soil that the fact that a body once lay there is only to be discovered by the presence of a darker shade or streak in it. Absolutely nothing but the teeth or their remains, or as stated before, tiny fragments of the lower jaw, which crumble away in the hand has been found in these clay mounds; not a vestige of tools, weapons or belongings of any kind. And it may here be stated that it is one of the singularities of these sepulchres, and a very significant fact, that not a single relic of stone, not so much as a single flake of any kind has been taken from the whole series, though the greatest care was used in seeking for them. In this, as in other respects, the interments in these mounds present, as we shall presently see, a marked contrast to those of the Salish tribes about Lytton, in which stone and bone relics are found in considerable numbers. These clay or earth mounds are of varying dimensions, some of them, evidently children's graves, being only a few feet high and a yard or two in diameter, but like the more elaborate ones are always circular in form and sometimes have a diameter of from 20 to 25 feet. Next in the series is a class of mounds, formed in part like the last, but differing from them in having a pile of boulders heaped up over and about the spot where the body originally lay. The plan of interment in this class of mounds seems to have been to place the body in the centre of the spot chosen for the grave, and then to surround and heap over it a large pile of boulders, and over these again to heap up earth to a height of from 6 to 12 feet.

The next class differs from these only in having a stratum of charcoal extending over the whole area of the mounds between the boulders and the outer covering of clay, evidently the remains of a large fire. Whether these fires were kindled for sacrificial or for some simpler ceremonial purpose it is impossible now from the evidence to say. The slaughter and cremation of slaves on the death of their owners or chief is not wholly unknown among the present tribes of B.C., but whether we see instances of this practice among these old mound-builders, or whether the fires were lighted in the belief that they comforted the shades of the departed on their journey to the nether world we may never know. The evidence of fires and the presence of charred bones is a com-

not sparing of its employment. The rancher on whose farm these tumuli are found took out from one side of one of these between 20 and 30 barrowfuls for building purposes, and when I opened it up later there was still a great quantity left in it. This mound is one of the most interesting of the group, inasmuch as it incidentally presents us with some independent, positive evidence of their antiquity. On one side of its crown the stump of a large cedar tree is seen projecting, the whole in the last stages of decay. To anyone who knows anything of the enduring nature of the cedar of British Columbia the evidence which this cedar stump offers will be very convincing. A cedar tree will lie on the ground for 1,000 years, it is estimated by timber men and others, and yet its wood



Specimens of Arrow Heads, etc., from Prehistoric Burial Grounds, Lytton, B.C. Two-thirds Natural Size.

paratively common feature of the mounds on Vancouver Island, but no charred bones have ever been found in these Hatzic mounds. The next class of mounds differed again from the last in having a large quantity of coarse, dark sand in their central parts. It would seem that in constructing the particular graves, after piling up the boulders over the body the builders had covered them with a deep layer of quicksand—which in that district underlies the clay topsoil—and over this again had strewn a layer of this coarse, dark sand. Where they procured this latter sand from is not known. There is none like it in the neighbourhood at present. It is much coarser and darker in colour than that now found in the Fraser near by. But wherever they brought it from they were



Specimens of Arrow Heads from Middens of B.C. Two-thirds Natural Size.

will be firm and good and fit to make up into door and window-sashes. There is now, not two hundred yards from this mound, a living fir tree growing astraddle over a prostrate cedar log, the age of which from its dimensions cannot be much less than five centuries, and yet the wood of the cedar under it is still solid and firm enough for the carpenter's use. It is almost impossible to say how long the cedar of this region will endure, and if a claim of 1,000 years be made for the growth and the complete decay of this tree whose roots have crumbled and mouldered away among the bones hidden beneath them for many a long year, most British Columbians who know anything of the durability of our cedar will think that a very moderate claim indeed; and it is

not at all unlikely that twice that period has elapsed since the mound was constructed. Even while I am writing this the mail has just brought me a copy of *Science*, in which it is stated that some Egyptian boats made of cedar and assigned to a period of 4,500 years ago, have recently been found buried near the banks of the Nile. Here is an interesting and independent proof of the power of this wood to withstand the ravages of time. My estimate compared with the age of these boats is a matter of the day before yesterday. This

abnormality is probably without a parallel throughout this region of contorted crania. It does not appear, moreover, to conform to any of the three types of deformation known to have been practised in former times by the present race of Indians on this Coast. And what is most curious and significant about it is that it is the skull of a woman. Women, therefore, had as much honour paid to them by these mound-builders as men, which is certainly not the case among the present tribes. This fact alone would seem to



Specimens of Midden Utensils.

mound is also interesting from the fact that it is the only one that has yielded any anatomical material of importance. Whether from the large quantity of sand in it, which may have acted as a drain, or from the fact that this large tree stood over it for many centuries, or from the combination of circumstances, the human remains in this mound have been better preserved, in part, than in the others. The long bones among others, as well as the skull, were taken out almost entire, though, unfortunately, all but the skull soon crumbled away. This, happily, I was able, in part, to preserve. It is a strangely deformed skull, and in its excessive

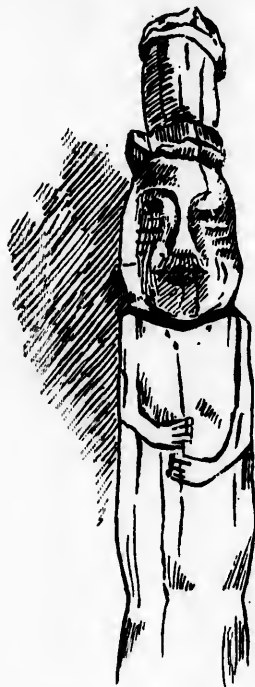
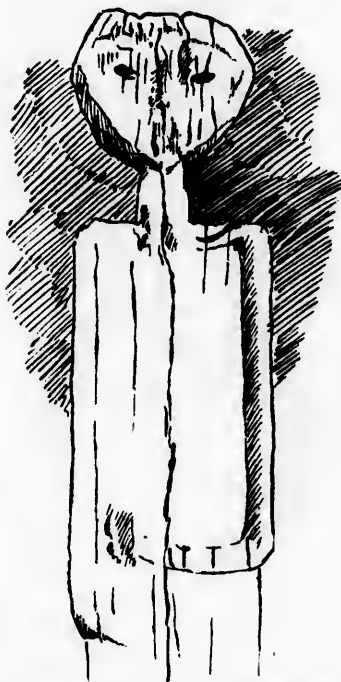
indicate a difference of race from the present tribes.

The next class differs in several essential features from those already described. The chief characteristic seen here is an outer, rectangular boundary of boulders, set side by side in the form of a square, having each of its sides facing towards one of the cardinal points of the compass like the pyramids of Mexico. This square was apparently laid off before the body was interred, which was placed in the centre and covered as before with a pile of boulders similar to those forming the square. Over these again, and between them and the outer square, a layer of quicksand

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was placed; then followed a thin layer of dark, gritty sand, similar to that found in the other mound; over this again came more quicksand, followed by a layer of coarse brown sand over the whole extent of the mound, extending to and beyond the outer boulders; and on the top of this the sepulchral fire was kindled. Over the ashes of this fire, which extended over the whole mound, more quicksand was heaped, followed by the capping of clay. A section illustrative of this mound may be seen in plate

skull and bones were found, and the rectangular object (1), a pair of which was recovered, and which was probably an earring, was taken from a mound of the fifth class. The ring figured on this (4) was taken from a mound of the second class, enclosed in a fold of hide, the whole wrapped up in a wad of cedar bark. These five copper objects, a fragment of a blanket woven from the hair of some animal, presumably from the colour and texture, the mountain-sheep, and a small quantity of human hair of



Wooden grave-posts from neighbourhood of Lytton, B.C.

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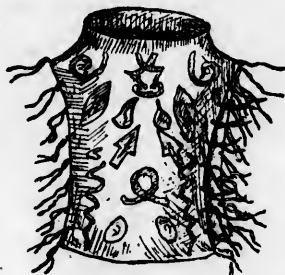
IV. The base or floor of this mound must have been sunk several feet below the level of the general surface of the land. The mound when opened stood about six feet above the surrounding soil, but its height from top to bottom at the centre was nearly eleven feet, and must have been considerably higher when first constructed. The copper bracelet figured on plate VI. was taken from this mound. The copper awl, or spindle shown in the same plate III. was taken from the mound in which the

two colours, black and brown, form the entire collection of relics taken from these mounds. The next and concluding class of the group shows a considerable advance upon the preceding ones. The plan here, as seen in plate V., is much more elaborate and complex. Instead of the outer square as in the others formed by a single line of boulders, we have three squares, one within the other, in the innermost of which, beneath the pile of boulders, lay the body; and the outer one is composed in this

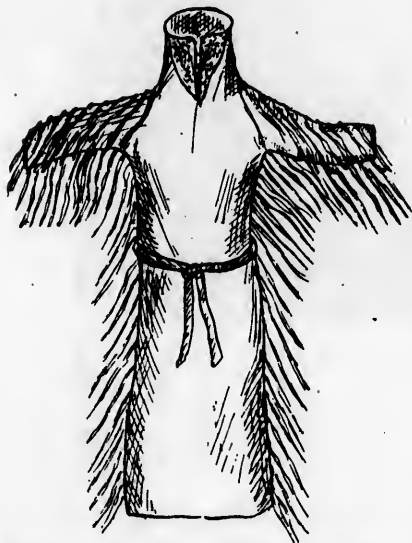
instance of two parallel rows of boulders, capped and united by a third. The superficial mass of this mound, and another alongside, and apparently like it, had been too much disturbed before my attention was drawn to them to allow

opened up on the 'St. John's River, Florida, the chief characteristic of which seems to be the employment of different kinds of sand in distinct layers in their construction.

To give an idea of the labour involved in the construction of one of these mounds it may be stated that it took a man, with the help of a wheel-barrow



N'tlahapamuq, Warrior's shirt of the old days, after drawing by C. E. Mischelle, of Lytton. Constructed from trebled Elk-hide.



Pattern of ancient dress of a chief's wife or daughter, after drawing by Chief Mischelle, of Lytton, B.C. Material soft doe-skin.

me to speak with any certainty of anything beyond their ground plan; but judging from the sandy condition of the soil on them, I should be inclined to say that they resembled those of the fourth class in their upper parts. It is interesting to note in this connection that a number of mounds have recently been



Drawing of stone figure found in the Indian burial-grounds at Kamloops, B.C. Said by the old Indians to have been used in former days in Puberty ceremonies. On the back of the sitting figure, which is supposed to represent a woman giving birth to a child, is a lizard-like animal in relief. In the forehead of the lower figure is a deep hole, which, according to my informant, held the sacred water with which the Shaman sprinkled the girl on her return from retirement in the woods. The material is a kind of granite. Figure now in the Provincial Museum.

and other suitable tools, eight days to remove a few yards off the soil only from the underlying boulders of the mound whose ground plan is given in plate V. What time it must have taken the native builders to erect one of the more elaborate sepulchres with their inferior tools can easily be imagined. To

bring and place the boulders alone must have taken a long time, and many days must have been consumed in bringing such large quantities of sand in their simple receptacles and in digging the clay which caps the structure throughout its whole area, even now, after all these years of erosion, to a depth of several feet. Some of the mounds on Vancouver Island are pyramidal in form. Whether any of these Fraser ones were of that form originally cannot now be determined. Exteriorly they present the appearance of truncated cones rather than four-sided pyramids, but this may easily be due to time and elements. The boulders, it may be stated, found in these mounds, weighed from 25 lbs. up to 200 lbs each, and must have been brought from some of the mountain stream beds, no stone of any kind, not even a pebble, being found anywhere in the neighbourhood of the ranch. Other groups of tumuli, differing in some points from these of Hatzic and resembling them in others, are found in many other parts of the Province, particularly on Vancouver Island. There is a particularly interesting Mainland group near Boundary Bay. One feature in which these differ from those described, and in which they resemble many of the cairns on Vancouver Island, is the existence in them of a cist, or stone coffin, in the centre of the mound, formed by slabs of rock, in which the body was placed. Rarely are the human remains in any of these tumuli recovered entire, at best a few of the harder bones only remain. We gather from this fact, as well as from many other features of them, that these tumuli are very old and contain the remains of men and women who, whether they are allied to the present tribes or not, were very probably contemporaries of the tumuli-builders of Europe. Historic data informs us that these tumuli-builders of the Old World could not have lived later than 2,000 or 3,000 years ago; and as all the conditions of these structures, and the remains found in them, closely resemble those of B.C., where much the same climatical conditions are found as obtain in England, there is great likelihood that in many instances those of this region are as old as those of Eng-

land. As already stated, the bones in our tumuli are rarely recovered and so little anatomical material of this kind has thus far been collected that no conclusive results can be reached as to their relationship to the present tribes of the Province. What little has been done in this way is too meagre to have much weight. There is, however, one striking fact which seems to suggest that these old mound-builders and the modern tribes are not related and that is that none of the tribes now found in B.C. bury, or have buried, as far as we can learn, in this way, and there are no more conservative peoples in the world when it comes to customs of this kind than the uncultivated races. The mode of sepulture followed by all the tribes inhabiting the districts wherein these tumuli are found has been from time immemorial, either tree-burial or slab-tomb burial, mainly the former. The dead body was doubled up till the knees touched the chin and thus securely bound and placed in a box or otherwise wrapped in a blanket, according to the locality, and afterwards suspended from the branches of a fir tree. There was no commoner sight a few years ago than these suspended boxes or bundles. Now, under missionary influence, the dead of the natives are invariably interred after the manner of our own dead. In other instances the remains, treated as before, would be placed in a little shed or hut built of cedar slabs, sometimes directly on the ground, and sometimes raised a few feet above it, or else, in some instances among the Coast tribes, a small island some little distance from the camping-ground, would be chosen and set apart for the reception of the dead. In no instance that has come to the writer's knowledge did they ever bury the body under the ground in this region. In the interior, among the Shuswaps and Thompsons, it was otherwise, the numerous sand-hills of that locality suggesting and offering to these tribes an easy way of disposing of their dead. From this fact, then, that the present Coast tribes never buried their dead in the ground we have strong reason for thinking that they and the old mound or tumuli-builders are not of the same race, or, if so, have been

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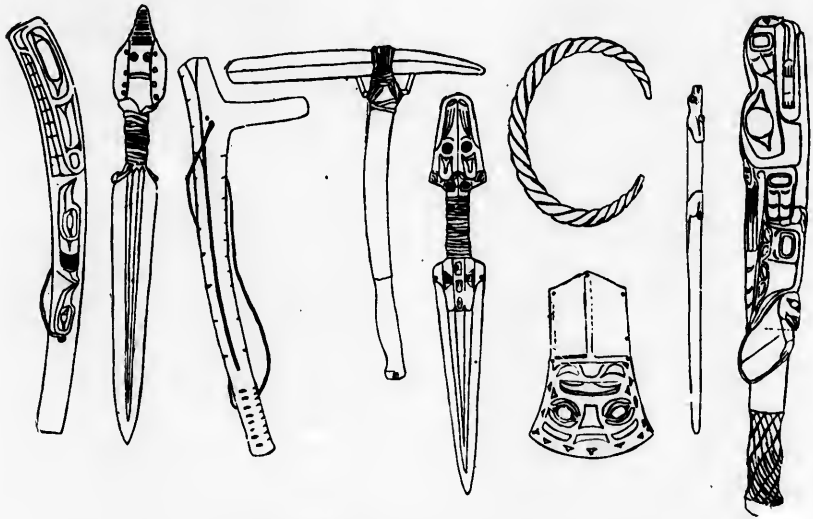
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I said that the Shushwaps and Thompsons of the interior took advantage of the numerous sand hills in the vicinity of their camp-sites to dispose of their dead, and a few remarks on these burial places may now be interesting.

Of all the fields in the Province in which I have worked there are none so rich in relics as those of this region. During the last twenty years, or so, many hundreds of the most interesting specimens have been taken from these centres. Up to the present there is no evi-

these were mostly of stone or bone and the sands of that region being generally dry, they have in numerous instances been preserved in as good a condition as when placed in the graves generations ago. It would take a good-sized volume to figure and describe the relics alone that have been recovered from the old prehistoric camp sites around Lytton. Beautifully-formed arrow-heads of jasper, agate, chalcedony, crystal, and a kind of obsidian, of all known shapes and sizes, from the tiny barbed point of less than half an inch in length up to points of 2 or 3 inches long; jade celts,



Specimens of Haida workmanship in copper, ivory and bone.

dence that the older prehistoric graves of this region contain the remains of a race differing from the present tribe; the later burials were apparently carried out on the same plan as the earliest that have been discovered. This briefly, consisted in doubling up the body and wrapping it in a blanket made, sometimes from the fibrous matter of the sage-bush plant, sometimes from the wool of mountain sheep or goats, then laying it in a hole in the sand and placing about the head a greater or less number of specimens of household and other utensils, weapons, tools and charms. As

axes and knives, polished like burnished metal, figurines, quaintly carved bone charms, pestle-hammers of a dozen different patterns, polished steatite pipes in animal forms, straight tubular pipes resembling huge cigar-holders incised with mystic lines, carved and decorated bone utensils and ornaments, stone clubs of various forms, exquisite leaf-shaped javelin points, two-edged stone swords, and a host of other objects in stone and bone, such as needles, hair-pins, awls for basket-making, horn and wooden spoons, grind-stones, skin-scrapers, perforated discs, "ceremonials," and last,

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but not least, blocks of cut and partially cut jade are amongst the relics recovered here. These last are extremely interesting, for until the writer's discovery of them at Lytton, together with similar uncut boulders of the same material taken from the adjacent Fraser bed, the presence of jade tools and weapons among our tribes had given rise to many surmises as to their place of origin. The only locality on this part of the continent where jade was known to exist up to this time in its native beds was in Alaska, but the large proportion of jade utensils among the natives of this region seemed, in the opinion of many, to suggest that the material must be found nearer than Alaska. My fortunate discovery of blocks of this material in the bed of the Fraser makes this quite certain. We know now that the Fraser is the source of this stone. It is found in the form of smooth, water-worn boulders between Lillooet and the junction of the Fraser with the Thompson. It was from these boulders that the old-time natives cut, with infinite pains and no small skill, the choicest of their stone tools and weapons. When it is stated that typical jade is several degrees harder than good steel, it will easily be understood that the ancients had no easy task to perform when they set themselves to cut out an adze, an axe, or a chisel from one of these boulders. For a long time the method of cutting these tools by the ancients was a puzzle to archaeologists, but after a time some celts were discovered, which had shallow grooves on one or both of their faces. From this it was clear that the pieces forming their tools had been ground bodily out of the block. The question then arose, how was the cutting or grinding done? It was the present writer's good fortune to be able to throw some light on this question also, by the discovery of specimens in various stages of cutting recovered from the old campsites about Lytton. Briefly, the cutting was performed in two ways, by grinding with narrow, bevelled grit-stones, and by cutting with a rock crystal of some kind, commonly an agate. The former methods made the grooved adzes or axes, the latter the clean-cut ones. The cutting was done on

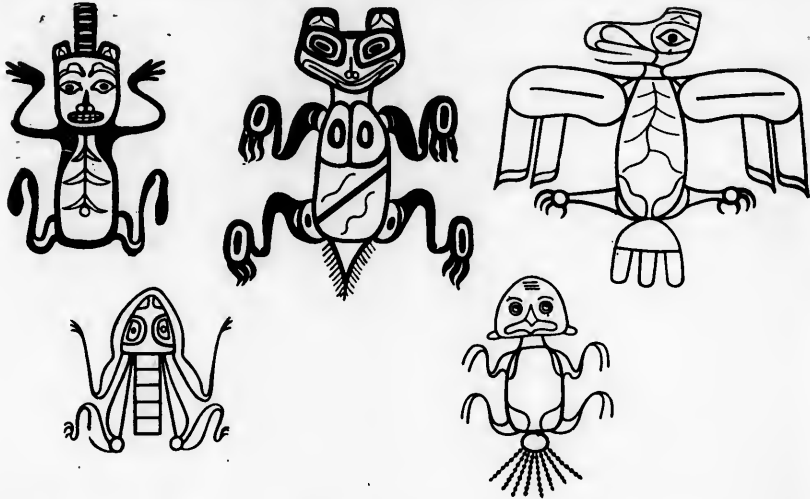
both sides of the stone, and when the cuts or grooves approached each other the piece was broken off by a sharp blow, the jagged edge being ground down smooth by rubbing on a block of sandstone. Water was used in both instances to keep the cut clean. This is clear, both from the evidence of the stones themselves as well as from the assertions of the older Indians. You will still hear it frequently stated that these cuts or grooves were effected by means of a bow and sand. The absurdity of the statement is readily seen when an attempt of the kind has been made. Imagine a wabbling bow-string cutting out a groove in the rounded surface of a slippery, polished boulder, off which the sand, the effective cutting material, would roll quicker than it could be poured upon it, water notwithstanding.

We cannot wander round the Province much further, but no description of the archaeology of B.C. could be attempted without saying a few words about the Gihangs or totem-poles of the Haida and Tsimsean, but especially of the former. Two capital specimens of these may be seen in the Provincial Museum. These structures are likewise monuments of the past, though later in time, than the tumuli and middens we have already considered. They are a kind of "Family Tree," a sculptured, genealogical record of the blood relations of their owners. No two of them are, therefore, exactly alike. Some of these poles are from 50 to 60 feet high—a few even higher. They are formed from the trunks of enormous cedar trees and are covered from top to bottom with grotesque sculptures of various marine and land animals. They stand in the forefront of the old houses, and in their base is constructed the door-way or entrance to the building. This is usually a huge hole cut out of the solid block and represents the gaping mouth of some huge monster. The sculptures are conventionalized beyond all recognition of the creatures intended by most white people, but are as readily perceived by a native as are the different letters of our alphabet by us. No two artists make the same animals alike, and yet there is always something characteristic in them which reveals to the Indian the ani-

mals portrayed. These creatures represent the different totemic relations of the individual, to the perpetuation of whose memory the pole is erected, and convey to the native mind very much the same information that a printed family pedigree does to us. Besides these Gihangs—some of which are many generations old, and all of which are now fast disappearing either by acts of vandalism, or by being carried away bodily to fill some niche in the large museums of the East, or even, in a few instances, those of Europe—the Haidas are justly renowned for their general artistic skill.

of course), and carved in the most spirited and finished style; suggesting rather the sceptre of an Oriental potentate than a mere fish-club. The Haidas were also skilled in the art of tattooing. Some of the figuring upon the bodies of the older men are extremely quaint and artistic, a few examples of which are here reproduced.

It is impossible in the limits of this short article to do more than touch upon a few of the more striking points of our subject, but it would not be possible to close our account before adding a few words upon the tribal divisions of our



Mythological Creature.
Frog.

Bear.

Devil-fish.

Thunder-bird.

Specimens of Haida Tattooing.

Some specimens of this may be seen in the accompanying illustrations, the beauty and richness of design of which will readily be seen and appreciated. The artistic Chinese and Japanese are hardly more skilful in carving than are the Queen Charlotte Islanders, not only in wood, but also in stone and ivory and bone. Their commonest tools and utensils were formerly highly decorated with carving and sculpture. As an instance of this it may be mentioned that their baton-like fish clubs, employed for knocking a troublesome fish on the head when landed in their canoes, were frequently formed from ivory (marine,

natives and their ethnic relations. It will probably be scarcely believed by some that the native races of this continent, North and South, number not less than 160 distinct linguistic stocks or families. This does not take into account the hundreds of dialects spoken by the different divisions of the family. In B.C. alone we have six different stocks, and some of these, like the Salish, have from 50 to 100 dialects, some of which differ from each other as widely as does English from German. This great number of linguistic families becomes the more striking and significant when we remember that in the whole of

Europe there are found at most but four distinct families; and it is one of the most perplexing problems of American linguistics to account satisfactorily for this great number of independent languages. The ethnic names by which our six Columbian stocks are known are the Haida-Tlingit in the North, Tsimseans on and about the Skeena, Kwakiutl-Nootka on the northern half of Vancouver Island and adjacent parts of the Mainland, Salish, which comprises the tribes on Vancouver and other islands south of Comox, those of the Coast as far south as the Columbia and the tribes on and about the Fraser, up to and inclusive of the Thompsons and Shushwaps, Kootenays, of the Kootenay Lakes and district, and the wide-spreading Déné, or Athabascans, who, strangely enough, are related to the fierce and blood-thirsty Apaches of New Mexico, etc. To the casual observer, all the members of these different stocks present much the same appearance, and they do undoubtedly share many traits in common, but yet, there are well-drawn lines which mark off the members of one stock from those of another quite as widely as the lines of difference mark off the several races of Europe from one another; and their

diversified languages clearly show them to have had different origins. What these origins were is a problem which has exercised the mind of scholars since our discovery of this continent, and the theories which have been put forward from time to time would fill a good many volumes. Some of these are bizarre and irrational in the extreme, and some are as amusing as they are naïve. I cannot forbear quoting one of these, it is so thoroughly original and whimsical. It is that propounded by the learned Dr. Cotton Mather. He believed that the aborigines of this continent had been lured here by the arch-fiend Satan, who saw in the spread of Christianity the loss of his own hold upon mankind. He therefore seduced the ancestors of our natives to these shores, where they would be shut off and lost to the rest of the world and would be entirely beyond power of the gospel, and he would have them always for his very own. Since the learned Doctor's day some little advance has been made on more scientific lines than these towards the solution of this perplexing problem, but a discussion of this subject would take us beyond the scope of our article



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